

Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs

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Arizona Army National Guard Soldiers return from Iraq (Updated Release)

*Details of missions for 27 Guardsmen from Tucson-based unit who
will return home from service in Iraq on Friday*

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For Immediate Release

(PHOENIX – Dec 16, 2004 Updated at 6:00 p.m.) Twenty-seven members of the Arizona Army National Guard's 852nd Rear Area Operations Center (RAOC) will return to Tucson tomorrow at noon after being called-up to federal active duty and serving in Iraq.

Soldiers from the 852nd RAOC were ordered to federal active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and departed their Tucson armory on December 12, 2003.

The unit will be departing their demobilization station at Fort Bliss TX on Friday morning, and will be transported back to Arizona on commercial busses which are tentatively scheduled to arrive at the Valencia Armory, 5500 E. Valencia, Tucson AZ between noon and 12:30 p.m.

New Information as of 6:00 pm on Thursday Dec 16th

The 852 RAOC is commanded by Colonel Ron R. Cox and was mobilized on Dec 5, 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom II. (Operation Iraqi Freedom II was the name given to the second rotation of troops to Iraq.) The unit completed its pre-deployment training at Fort Bliss, Texas, on Jan 23, 2004 and deployed to the theater of operations on Jan 24, 2004 arriving in Kuwait on Jan 26, 2004.

The 852 RAOC moved to Camp Anaconda, Balad, Iraq in Feb 2004. The 852 RAOC completed the Transfer of Authority from the Oregon Army National Guard's 82 RAOC on March 20, 2004 and assumed the mission of the Garrison Command for the base.

GUARD 852 RAOC
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While stationed on Camp Anaconda, the 852 RAOC was responsible for all life support on the base consisting of more than 25,000 personnel. The 852 RAOC had the 362nd Military Police Detachment (Law and Order) attached to them, and operational control of the Facilities Engineer Team 15 (Base Engineers). The 852 RAOC's primary responsibilities revolved around creating the Force Protection Plan for the base, managing the consequence management program for the base, tasking and directing the tenant units for base camp tasks and details, managing all tenant and transient billeting, overseeing the Department of Public Works, conducting public works missions to Bakir Village outside of Camp Anaconda, producing all badges (ID Cards) for all Third Country, Coalition Country, and Local Nationals, overseeing the management of more than 350 Local National workers for the base, inspecting the Local National Camp Sites on the base, providing logistical support for AAFES and MWR facilities, and managing the Education Center. The 852 RAOC also participated in the Civil Military Operation program, Operation Anaconda Neighborhood by helping the Bakir Village rebuild their power generators and refurbishing their medical clinic.

The 852 RAOC completed their mission as the Garrison Headquarters for Camp Anaconda on the Dec 7, 2004 and passed these responsibilities on to the 301st Area Support Group (ASG) from Fort Totten, New York.